

# FDA Drug Approval Pathways 101

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JUNE 29, 2022

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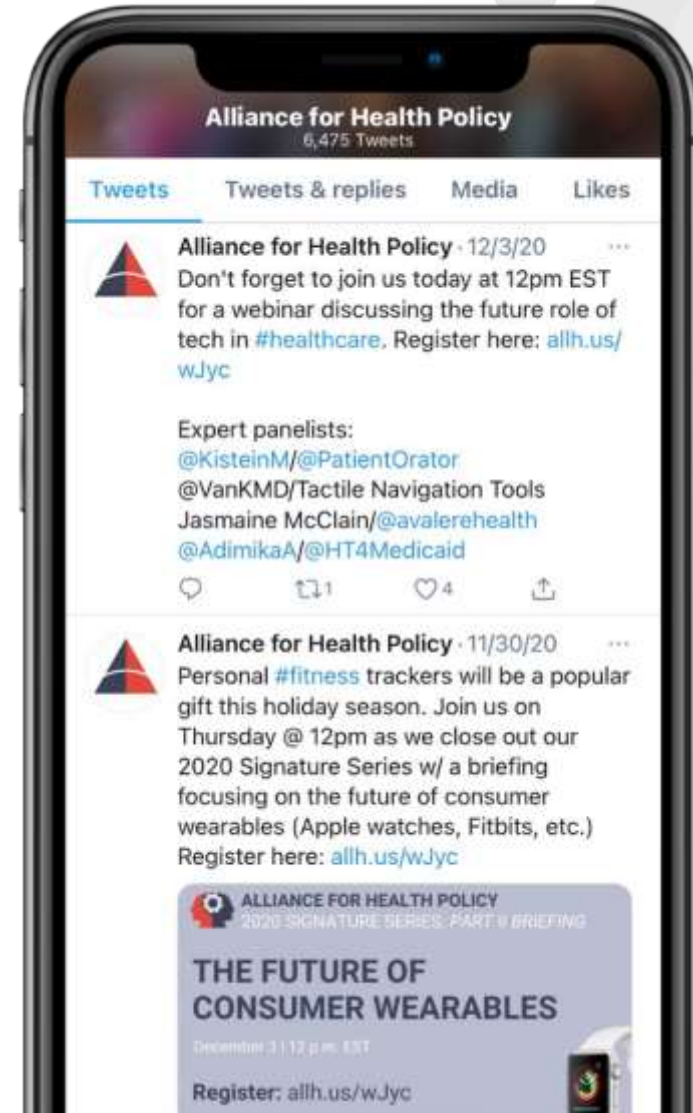


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## **Andrea Noda, MPP**

Vice President of Health Care- Drug Pricing  
Arnold Ventures



@BrookingsInst

## **Marta Wosińska, Ph.D.**

Visiting Fellow

USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy

# PRESENTERS



**Clay Alspach, J.D.**

Principal  
Leavitt Partners

 @LeavittPartners



**Kelly George, Ph.D., RAC**

Principal  
Avalere Health

 @AvalereHealth



**Ameet Sarpatwari, Ph.D., J.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
Associate Epidemiologist, Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Assistant Director, Program On Regulation, Therapeutics, And Law

 @AmeetSarpatwari



**Reshma Ramachandran, M.D., MPP**

Physician-Fellow  
Yale School of Medicine

 @NCSP\_Yale



**Marta Wosińska, Ph.D.**

Visiting Fellow  
USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy

 @BrookingsInst






@NCSP\_Yale

## **Reshma Ramachandran, M.D., MPP**

Physician-Fellow

Yale School of Medicine





# FDA'S ROLE IN PROTECTING PATIENTS, PROVIDERS, & THE PUBLIC

Reshma Ramachandran, MD, MPP,  
MHS

Yale Collaboration for Research  
Integrity and Transparency (CRIT)

# DISCLOSURES

- I have no relevant financial relationships with commercial entities that produce health-care related products or services relevant to the content of this presentation.
- My views are my own and not that of my employers (U.S. Government, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Yale School of Medicine) nor the organizations I work with.
- I serve as a co-Director of the Yale Collaboration for Research Integrity and Transparency (CRIT), which is supported by Arnold Ventures
- I chair the Doctors for America FDA Task Force whose work is funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. I also sit on the boards of the AMSA Foundation and Universities Allied for Essential Medicines North America.

# FDA'S MISSION STATEMENT

- The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for protecting the public health by **ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical devices**; and by ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.
- FDA also has responsibility for regulating the manufacturing, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products to protect the public health and to reduce tobacco use by minors.
- FDA is responsible for advancing the public health by **helping to speed innovations that make medical products more effective, safer, and more affordable** and by helping the public get the accurate, science-based information they need to use medical products and foods to maintain and improve their health.
- FDA also plays a significant role in the Nation's counterterrorism capability. FDA fulfills this responsibility by ensuring the security of the food supply and by fostering development of medical products to respond to deliberate and naturally emerging public health threats.

## FDA'S FOOTPRINT

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Regulates \$0.25 of every \$1 spent

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Nearly 70% of every outpatient visit involves medication therapy

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Nearly 80% of every hospital ER visit involves medication therapy

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Percent of persons using at least 1 prescription drug in the last 30 days: 48.6% (CDC, 2015-2018)

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Percent of persons using at least 3 or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days: 24% (CDC, 2015-2018)

---

Percent of persons using 5 or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days: 12.8% (2015-2018)

# CHANGING FOCUS

## Safety

- 1938 – Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act

## Safety & Efficacy

- 1962 – Kefauver-Harris Amendment

## Safety, Efficacy, and Speed

- 1983 – Orphan Drug Act
- 1984 – Hatch-Waxman Act
- 1992 – Accelerated Approval
- User Fee Reauthorizations
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures

# WHAT DOES THE FDA DO?

- Approves drugs, devices, and other medical products as safe and effective for “conditions of use prescribed or suggested within the drug label”★
  - Specified indication
  - Specified population
  - Dose and duration of drug studies
- Burden on sponsors to demonstrate that the drug is safe and effective for proposed use within application
- FDA issues guidance for sponsors regarding standards for regulatory review, which sets parameters for safety and efficacy

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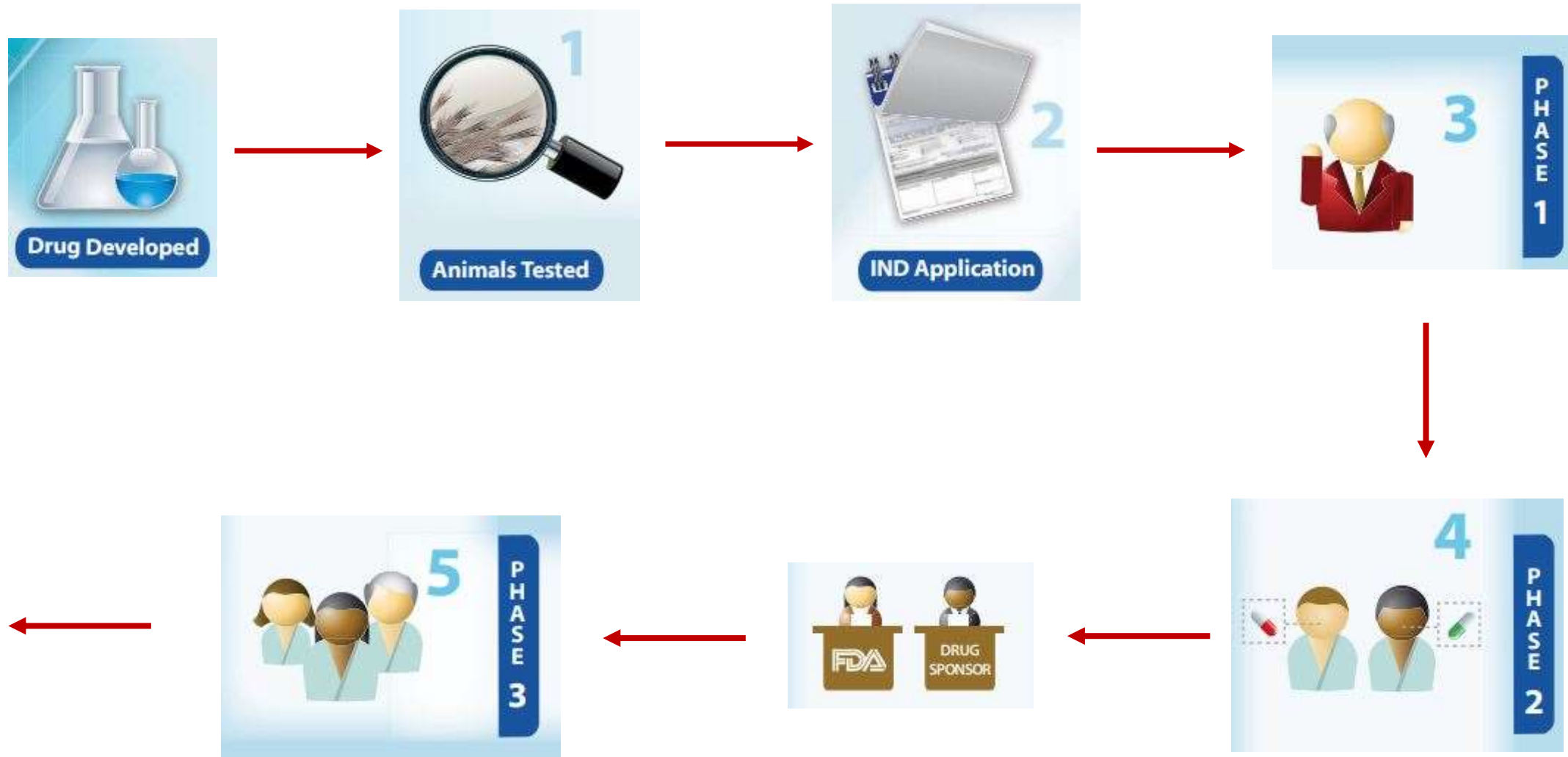


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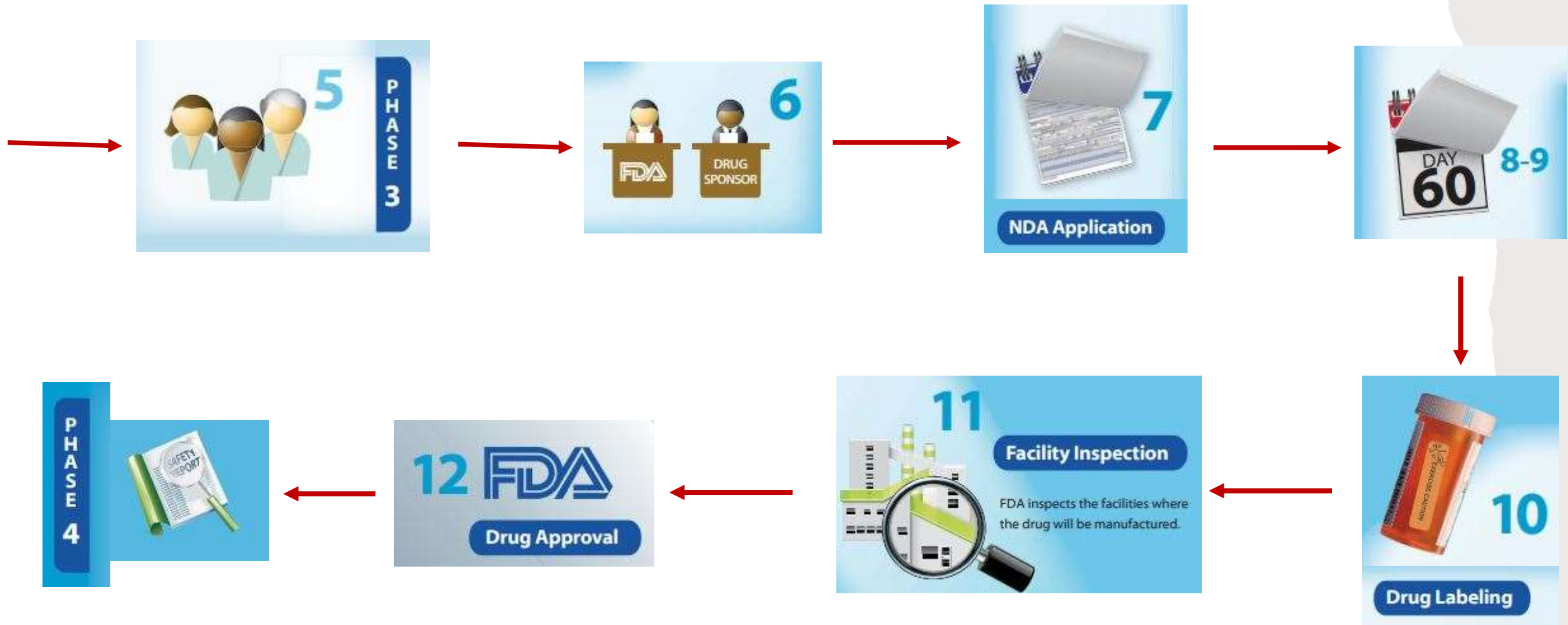
★FDA **does not** regulate clinical practice – once a medical product is made available to patients on the market, clinicians are able to prescribe it for other off-label uses.

# FDA APPROVAL PROCESS



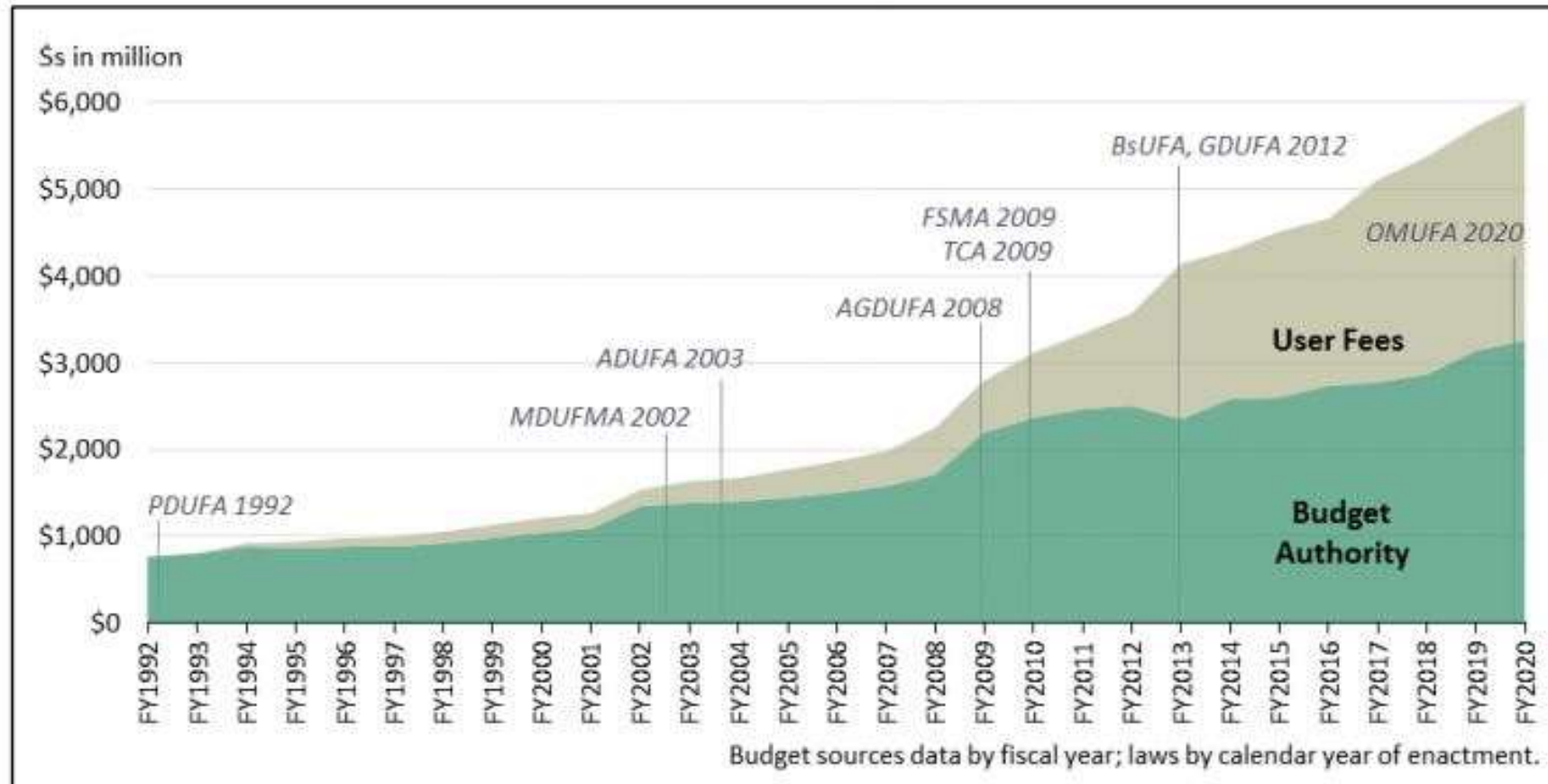
Source: FDA

# FDA APPROVAL PROCESS (CONT'D)



# ENSURING AN INDEPENDENT REGULATOR

**Figure 1. FDA Spending, by Source, FY1992-FY2020**  
(in millions of dollars)



**Source:** Figure created by CRS using the FY1992 through FY2022 FDA CJs.



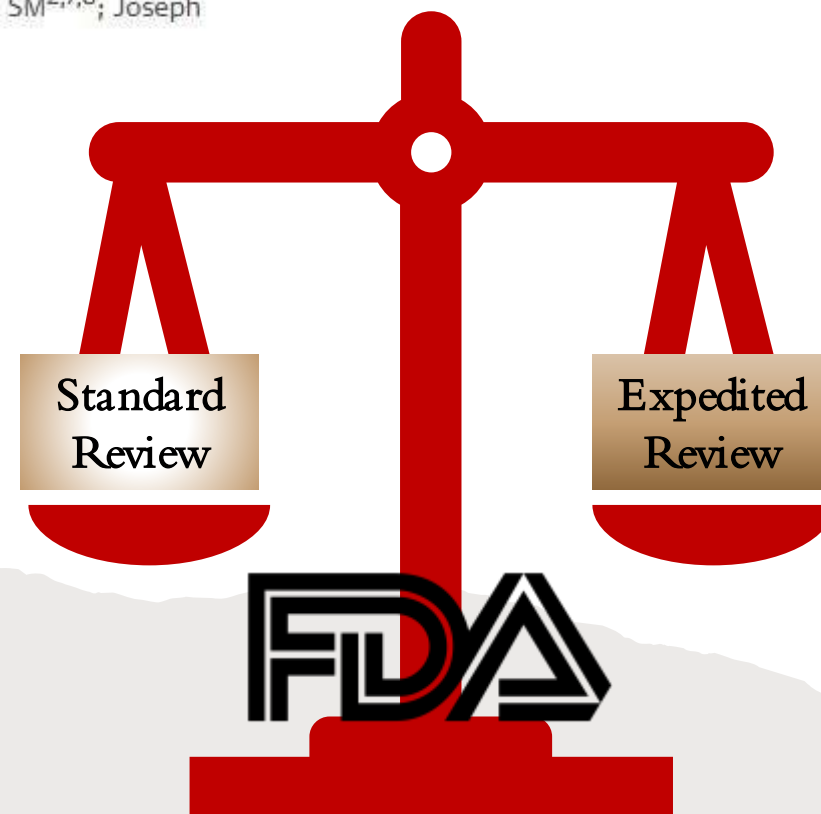
April 21, 2020

# Assessment of Clinical Trials Supporting US Food and Drug Administration Approval of Novel Therapeutic Agents, 1995-2017

Audrey D. Zhang, AB<sup>1,2</sup>; Jeremy Puthumana, MS<sup>3</sup>; Nicholas S. Downing, MD<sup>4,5</sup>; Nilay D. Shah, PhD<sup>6</sup>; Harlan M. Krumholz, MD, SM<sup>2,7,8</sup>; Joseph S. Ross, MD, MHS<sup>2,8,9,10</sup>

» [Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

*JAMA Netw Open.* 2020;3(4):e203284. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.3284



## SHIFTING THE SCALES

THANK YOU



@reshmagar

@Yale\_CRIT

reshma.ramachandran@yale.edu



@AvalereHealth

## **Kelly George, Ph.D., RAC**

Principal, Regulatory Strategy and FDA Policy  
Avalere Health





# Alliance for Health Policy: FDA Drug Approval Pathways 101

**Avalere Health** | A Fishawack Company  
June 29th, 2022

# Agency Oversight is Across Entire Lifecycle and Requires Resource Allocation Decisions

## FDA Oversight



### FDA oversight includes:

- **>20,000** prescription drug products on the market
- **>13,000** facilities for drug products
- **100,000** pages = typical application

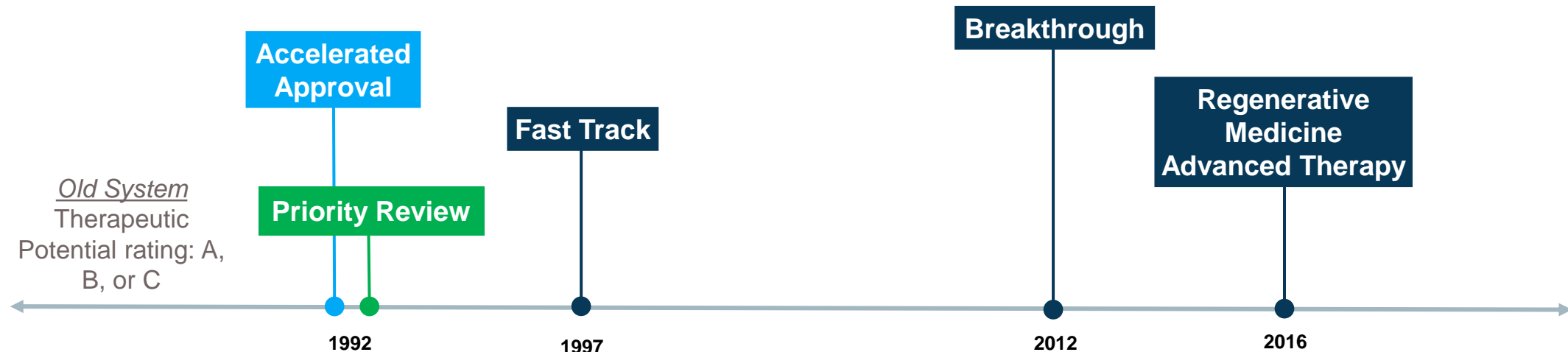
Code Request

## CMS Oversight

# Agency and Congress Aim to Speed High Value Products

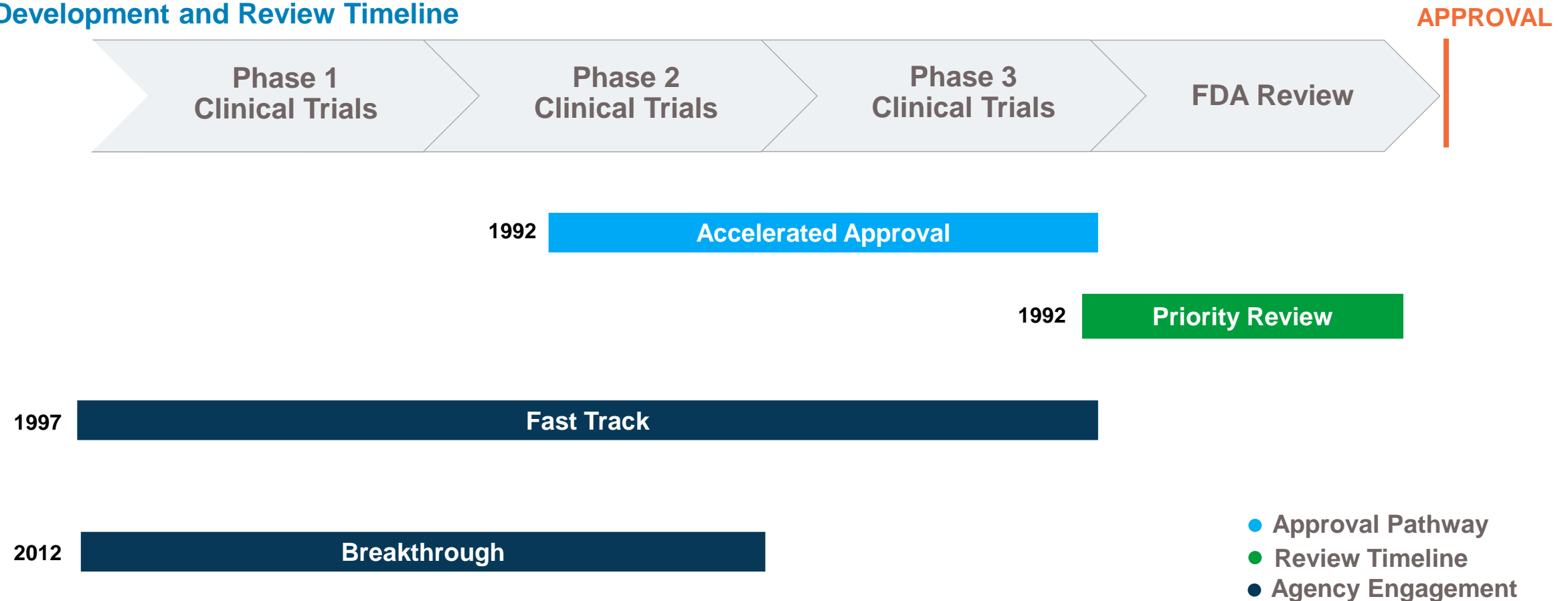
## Evolving Approach Toward Targeted Expedited Programs

- Requires identification of high value product and prioritization of workflow, agency energy
- Previous system was less defined or transparent and assessed products based on therapeutic gains over existing products
- Historical events (AIDS epidemic, “drug lag”) play a large role in shaping policies
- Current expedited pathways and designations created over 30 years



# Expedited Programs Impact Various Points in Development

## Development and Review Timeline



# Expedited Programs Target Specific High Value Products

## Development and Review Timeline



# Additional Tools to Ensure High Value Products Continually are Developed and Incentivized

## Unfair Trade

Monitored by Fair Trade Commission, Congress

- Protects against anticompetitive behavior and deceptive or unfair trade practices
- Advertising and promotional communications

## Patent Protection

Monitored by US PTO

- Utilized to protect intellectual property at any point in development
- Expire after 20 years per statute; standalone expiration timeline

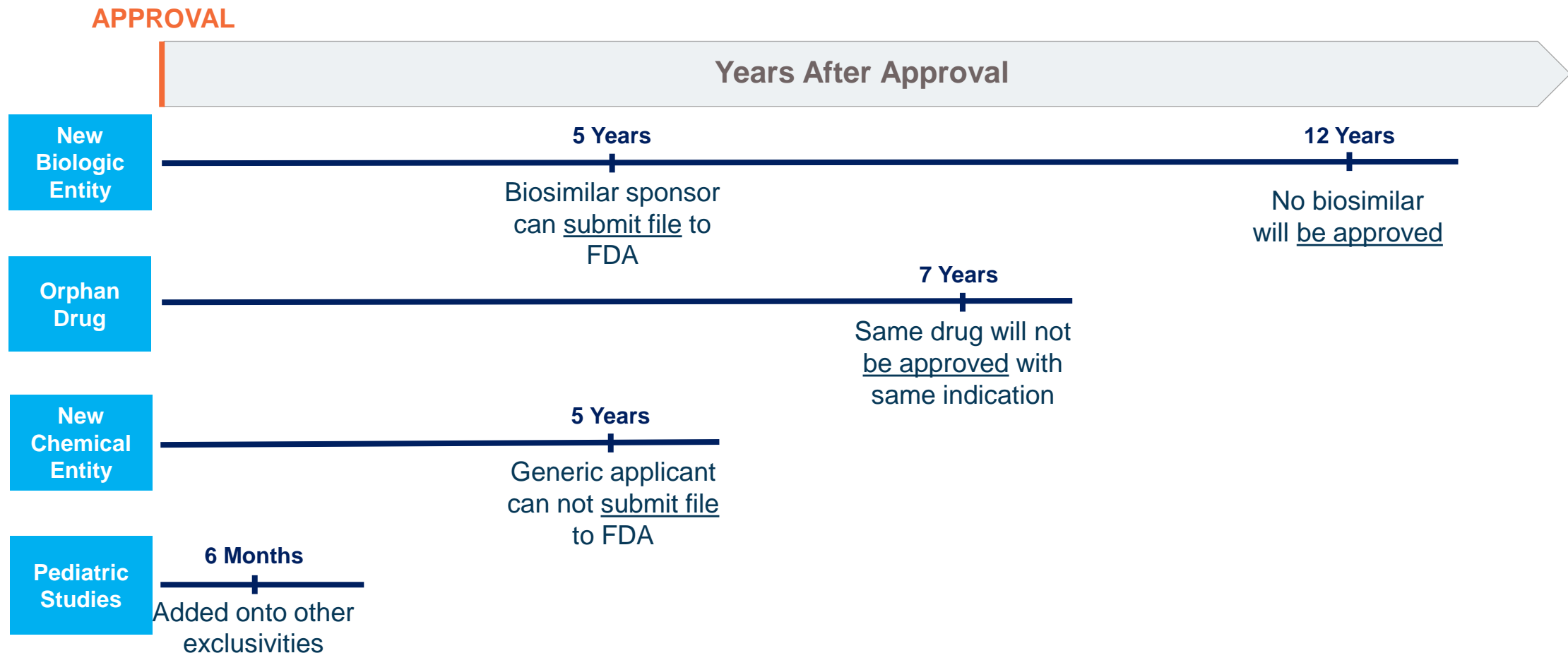
## Market Exclusivity

Monitored by FDA

- Utilized to promote competition and innovation
- Contingent upon regulatory approval as well as statutory requirements
- Vary in duration

Many different approaches exist to create a sustainable marketplace for high value medical products. Each of these are in place to create a careful balance of innovation and competition while maintaining a fair market.

# FDA Exclusivities Provide Marketing Rights for Specified Time



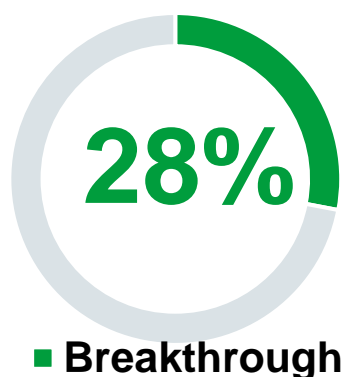
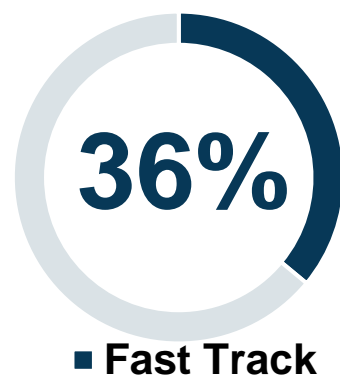
These provide exclusive marketing rights granted by FDA upon approval of a product which meets the specific criteria. The goal is to provide incentive to innovate and temporary protection from competition



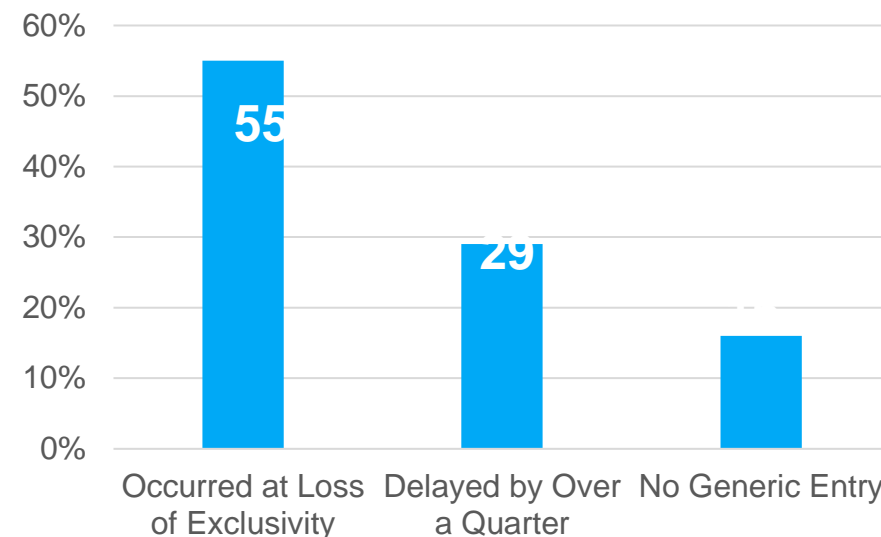


# Where Are We Now?

## 74% of Novel Products are 'Expedited'



## Generic Entry Timing



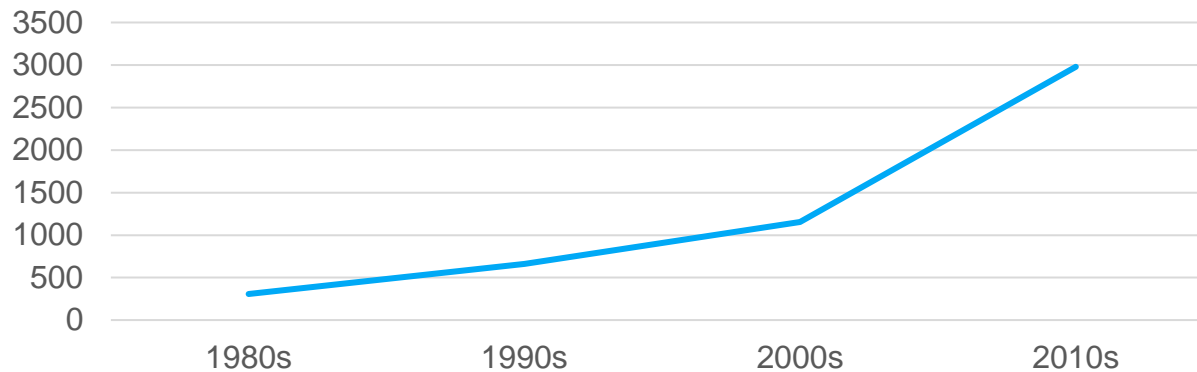
12.5 years

Average years small molecule drug is on the market before competition

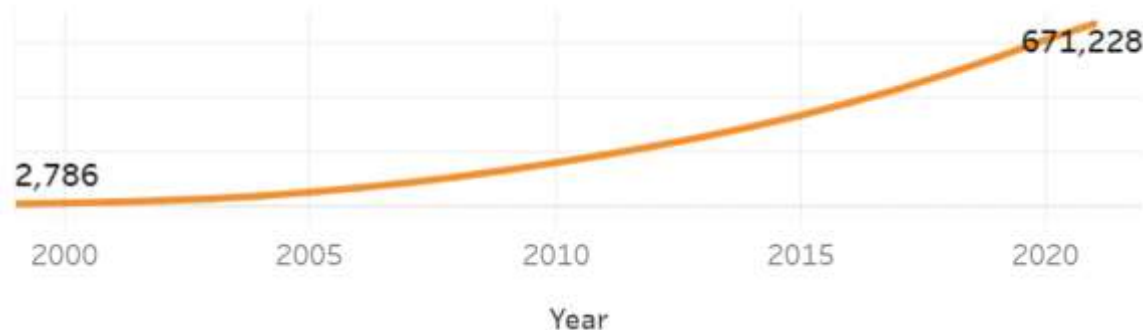
# Changing Environment – Trends Will Require Efficiency

As the landscape of drug development continues to shift, we will need to continue to reform incentive structures

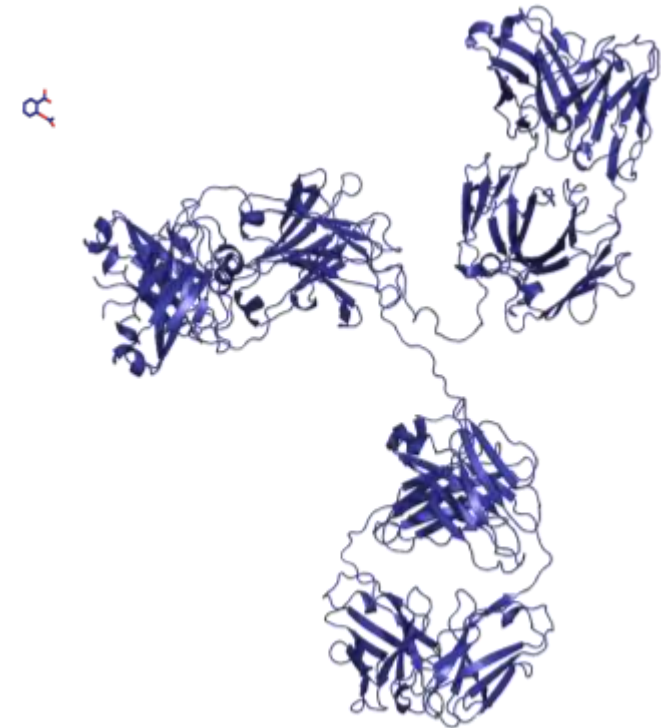
## More Orphan Drugs, Products for Small Population\*



## More Clinical Trials Being Run\*\*



## More Complex Products



\*2021 Jun 9;16(1):265. Using four decades of FDA orphan drug designations to describe trends in rare disease drug development [link](#)

\*\* WHO Report Published Feb 2022: [link](#)

# Thank You!!

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**Kelly  
George, PhD**

Principal,  
Regulatory Strategy and  
FDA Policy  
[Kgeorge@avalere.com](mailto:Kgeorge@avalere.com)





## Appendix

# Details of FDA's Expedited Programs

Program	Eligibility Criteria	Potential Benefits
<b>Intended to Speed Drug Development</b>		
<b>Fast Track</b> (1997)	Nonclinical or clinical data demonstrate the potential to <b>address unmet medical need</b> of serious condition	Earlier FDA interaction, expedites drug development, application review
<b>Breakthrough Therapy</b> (2012)	Preliminary clinical data demonstrate <b>substantial improvement</b> on a clinically significant endpoint(s) over available therapies	Earlier FDA interaction, could considerably shorten drug development timelines
<b>Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy</b> (2017)	Preliminary evidence of clinical benefit has the potential to address unmet medical need in a serious condition.	Earlier FDA interaction, expedites drug development, application review
<b>Intended to Speed FDA Review</b>		
<b>Priority Review</b> (1992)	Shows <b>significant improvement in safety or effectiveness</b> over available therapies for serious condition	Accelerates marketing application review to 6 months rather than 10
<b>Intended to Modify Approval Pathway</b>		
<b>Accelerated Approval</b> (1992)	Evidence to support meaningful advantage over available therapies AND demonstrates an effect on a <b>surrogate endpoint</b> that is <b>reasonably likely</b> to predict clinical benefit, or on a clinical endpoint reasonably likely to predict effect on IMM	Faster clinical trials <b>for drugs with long-term clinical benefit.</b>

# Details of FDA Market Exclusivities

Exclusivity Type	License Type	Duration	Details
New Chemical Entity	NDA	5 years	Generics cannot file ANDA until 5 years is up (4 years if patent challenge)
New Biologic Entity	BLA	12 years	Biosimilars cannot file BLA until 4 years after
Orphan Drug Exclusivity	NDA or BLA	7 years	<200k individuals affected or impossible to recover cost of development
New Clinical Investigation	NDA or ANDA	3 years	Brand or generic with new "essential" clinical study
Pediatric Exclusivity	NDA or BLA	6 months	Added to existing exclusivity
Generating Antibiotic Incentives Now	NDA (theoretical BLA)	5 years	Added to existing exclusivity
180-day Exclusivity for Generics	ANDA	6 months	First generic ANDA filter with paragraph IV
Competitive Generic Therapy	ANDA	6 months	Requires "inadequate generic competition" of brand drug
Interchangeable Biologic	BLA	1 year	Related only to interchangeability





@AmeetSarpatwari



## **Ameet Sarpatwari, Ph.D., J.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
Associate Epidemiologist, Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Assistant Director, Program On Regulation, Therapeutics, And Law





# FDA Drug Approval Pathways 101

**Ameet Sarpatwari, PhD, JD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Associate Epidemiologist, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Assistant Director, Program On Regulation, Therapeutics, And Law

[asarpatwari@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:asarpatwari@bwh.harvard.edu)

 @AmeetSarpatwari

# Following FDA Approval of a New Drug

- ❑ No national health technology assessment of:
  - ❑ Comparative effectiveness (e.g., Germany) or comparative cost-effective (e.g., England)
- ❑ Handcuffed payers
  - ❑ Medicaid
    - ❑ Must generally cover all FDA-approved drugs
    - ❑ CMS rejected Massachusetts' waiver request to institute closed formulary in 2018
  - ❑ Medicare
    - ❑ Must cover all drugs in six classes: anticonvulsants, antidepressants, antineoplastics, antipsychotics, antiretrovirals, immunosuppressants
    - ❑ Otherwise must be “reasonable and necessary”
    - ❑ CMS prohibited from negotiating on behalf of Part D plans
- ❑ Aggressive marketing: ~\$30 billion on drugs, disease awareness, lab tests, and health services in 2016  
-Schwartz & Woloshin. JAMA (2019).
- ❑ Soaring net launch prices and price increases  
-Rome et al. JAMA (2022); Hernández et al. JAMA (2020).

Health Technology Assessment in the U.S. –  
A Vision for the Future

**Sound, Fury and Prescription Drugs**

Despite talk of reform, drug prices keep climbing.



# Shift from Pre- to Post-Market Assessment

- ❑ The FDA is fast
  - ❑ Overall median time to total approval 2019: ~9 months
  - ❑ 2020: 68% of new drugs qualified for an expedited development or review pathway
- ❑ Approval on less rigorous evidence

When considering the aggregate pivotal trials supporting each indication approval, the proportion of indications supported by at least 2 pivotal trials decreased (80.6% [95% CI, 72.6%-87.2%] in 1995-1997; 60.3% [95% CI, 47.2%-72.4%] in 2005-2007; and 52.8% [95% CI, 42.9%-62.6%] in 2015-2017;  $P < .001$ ). The proportion of indications supported by only single-group pivotal trials increased (4.0% [95% CI, 1.3%-9.2%] in 1995-1997; 12.7% [95% CI, 5.6%-23.5%] in 2005-2007; and 17.0% [95% CI, 10.4%-25.5%] in 2015-2017;  $P = .001$ ), whereas the proportion supported by at least 1 pivotal trial of 6 months' duration increased (25.8% [95% CI, 18.4%-34.4%] in 1995-1997; 34.9% [95% CI, 23.3%-48.0%] in 2005-2007; and 46.2% [95% CI, 36.5%-56.2%] in 2015-2017;  $P = .001$ ).

-Zhang et al. JAMA Network Open (2020).

- ❑ May result in earlier access to some safe and effective therapies
- ❑ May also result in more drugs later found to be unsafe or ineffective



# More Drugs But How Good and for What Conditions

- ❑ There has been an increasing number of drug approvals over time

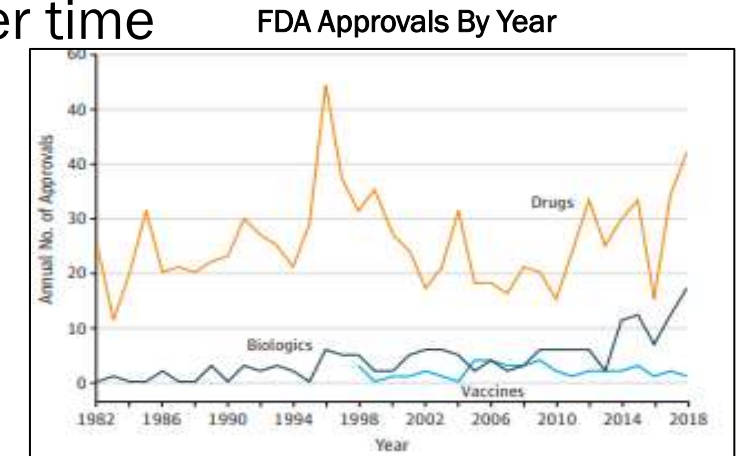
- ❑ Mean annual number of approvals

- ❑ 1990-1999: 25

- ❑ 2010-2019: 40

News > Medscape Medical News  
**FDA Approved Record Number of Drugs in 2018**

-Medscape (2019).



-Darrow et al. JAMA (2020).

- ❑ Variable quality

- ❑ Some new drugs have proven clinically transformational

e.g., sofosbuvir (Sovaldi), tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah)

- ❑ BUT of all new drugs approved by FDA in 2017, about two-thirds were rated by expert organizations in Germany, France, and Canada to offer no or minor additional benefits over existing treatments

-Frank et al. Health Affairs Forefront (2020).

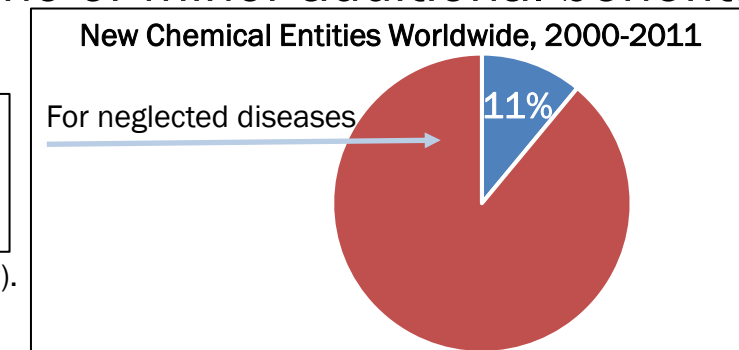
BRIEF  
**Amgen exits neuroscience R&D as pharma pulls back from field**

-Biopharma Dive (2019).

- ❑ Disproportionate focus

- ❑ On lucrative markets: oncology and orphan products

- ❑ Away from risky/non-profitable markets: central nervous system and tropical diseases



-Pedrique et al. Lancet Global Health (2013).



# Accelerated Approvals

- ❑ As of May 2022, 278 drugs have been approved under the accelerated approval pathway
- ❑ Most common indications: oncology and rare diseases
- ❑ Challenges
  - ❑ High cost, uncertain benefits
    - ❑ Medicaid: 9.1% net spending despite only 0.4% of prescription use  
-Sachs et al. JAMA Health Forum (2021).
    - ❑ Aducanumab (Aduhelm)
      - ❑ List price \$56,000 vs. \$3,000-\$8,000 per year cost-effective price  
-ICER (2021).
      - ❑ November 2021, CMS announced largest increase in premiums in 15 years
  - ❑ Minimal incentives to complete required post-approval trial, limited enforcement
    - ❑ 1992-2016=13% of accelerated approvals, of which 13% were on the market a median of 9.5 years without confirmatory evidence  
-ICER (2021).
    - ❑ FDA gives Biogen up to 9 years to complete Phase 4 study for aducanumab
- ❑ Lengthy process for withdrawing indication (e.g., hydroxyprogesterone caproate (Makena))
- ❑ Result: greater gatekeeping role by payors (e.g., coverage with evidence determination)





**Clay Alspach, J.D.**

Principal

Leavitt Partners



@LeavittPartners

# FDA Approval Pathways 101: Current Political Environment

*Presented by Clay Alspach*  
*[clay.alspach@leavittpartners.com](mailto:clay.alspach@leavittpartners.com)*

June 29, 2022

**LEAVITT**  
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# Outline



**Political Environment**

**Background: FDA User Fees and Reauthorization Effort**

**Examples of Past Congressional Efforts**

**Current Congressional Efforts**

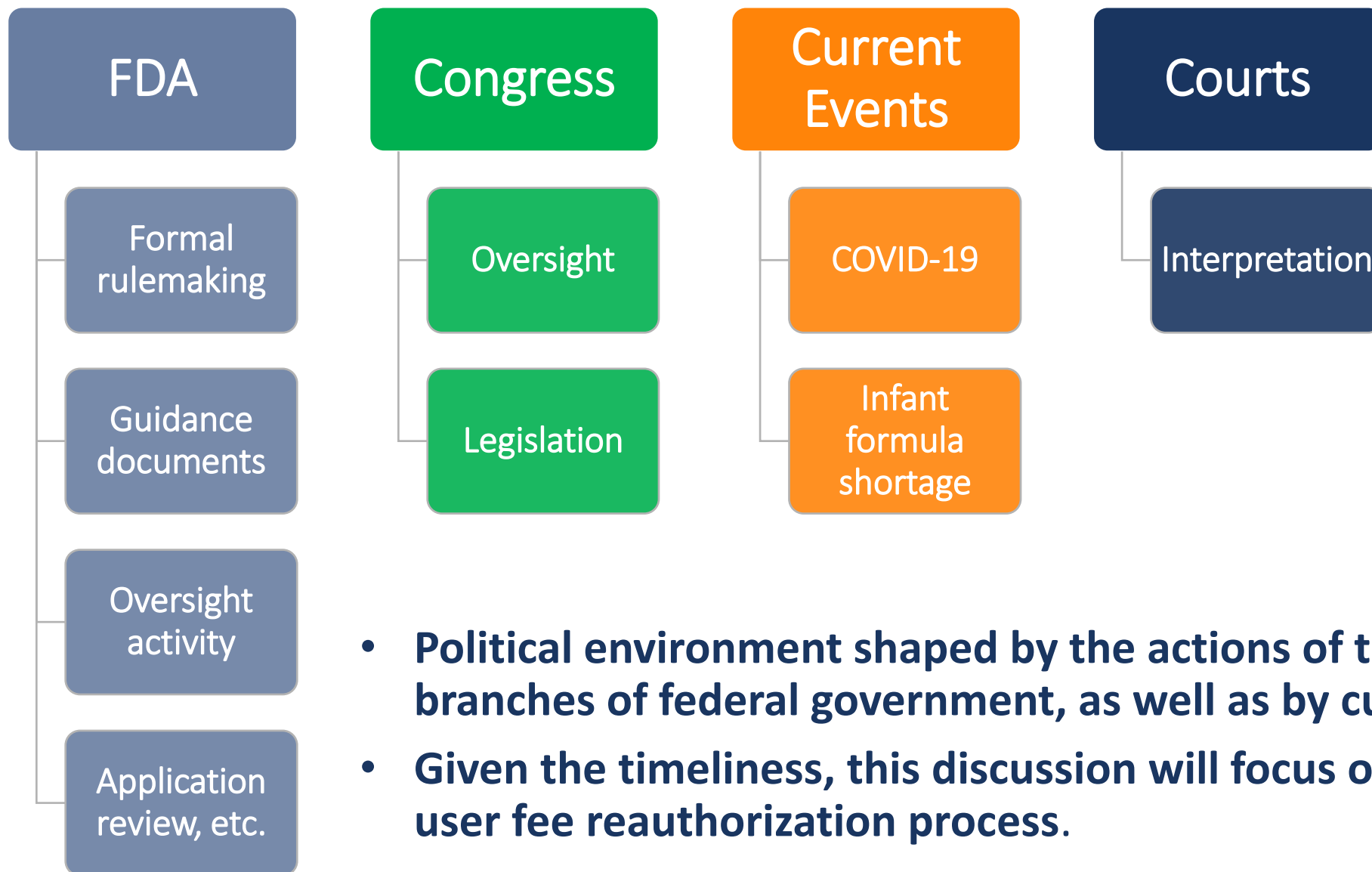
**Concluding Thoughts**



# **Current Political Environment**



# Current Political Environment



- **Political environment shaped by the actions of the three branches of federal government, as well as by current events.**
- **Given the timeliness, this discussion will focus on the FDA user fee reauthorization process.**

# **What is the FDA User Fee Process?**

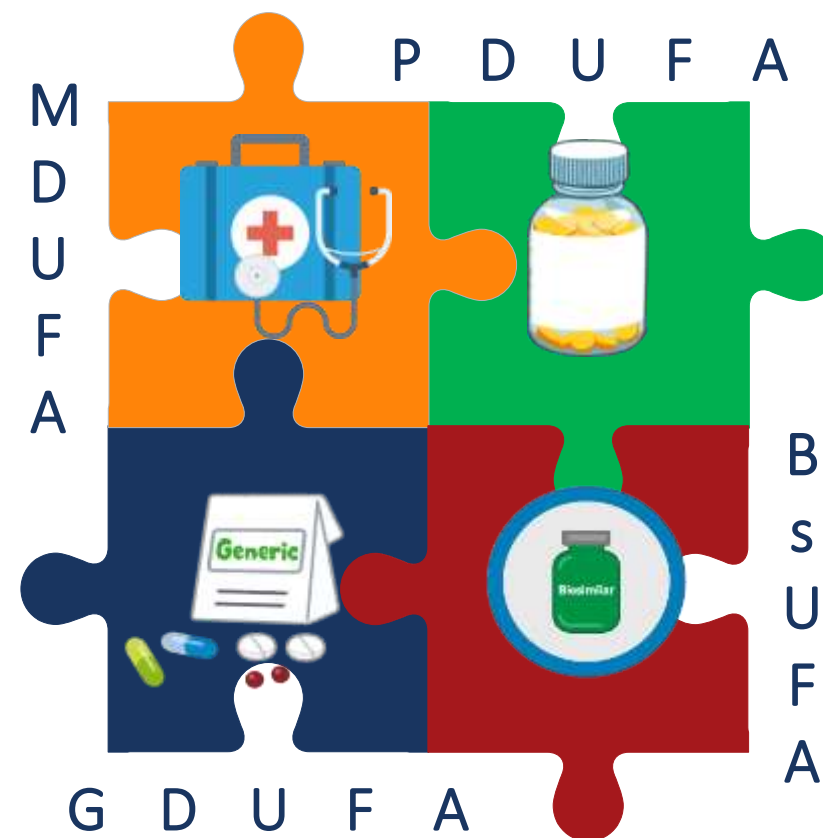


# FDA Drug User Fee Reauthorization Overview



FDA review of medical products is funded through a combination of annual discretionary appropriations from Congress and user fees collected from the industry.

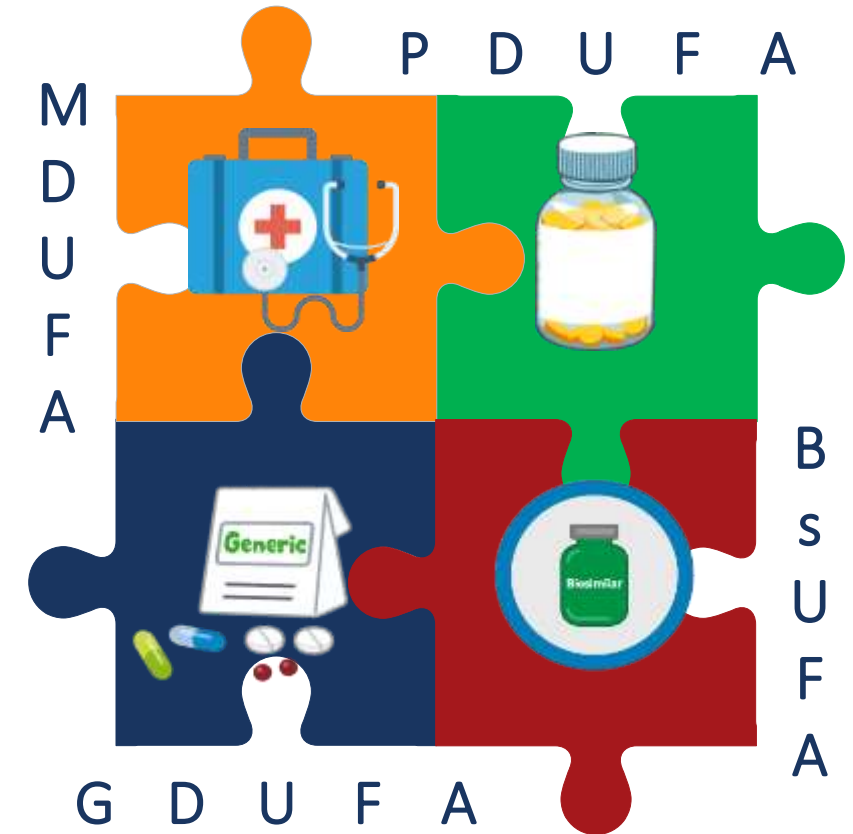
- User fee amendment programs require Congressional reauthorization every five years.
  - UFAs expire at the end of September 2022, but Congress wants to finish work by end of July to avoid “pink slip” issue at FDA.
- Major user fee programs
  - **Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA)**
    - Seventh reauthorization
  - **Generic Drug User Fee Act (GDUFA)**
    - Third reauthorization
  - **Medical Device User Fee Act (MDUFA)**
    - Fifth reauthorization
  - **Biosimilar User Fee Act (BsUFA)**
    - Third reauthorization



# FDA Drug User Fees Overview Cont'd



- Congress usually utilizes the reauthorization process to:
  1. Reauthorize the FDA user fees.
  2. Conduct oversight of FDA.
  3. Enact policy reforms.
- As part of the process, Congress and FDA will consider overarching issues such as:
  - Innovation
  - Access
  - Safety



# **Examples of Past Congressional Efforts**



# Example 1 (FDAMA (1997))



FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
MODERIZATION ACT OF 1997



# Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act (FDAAA) of 2007

## TITLE IX—ENHANCED AUTHORITIES REGARDING POSTMARKET SAFETY OF DRUGS

### Subtitle A—Postmarket Studies and Surveillance

- Sec. 901. Postmarket studies and clinical trials regarding human drugs; risk evaluation and mitigation strategies.
- Sec. 902. Enforcement.
- Sec. 903. No effect on withdrawal or suspension of approval.
- Sec. 904. Benefit-risk assessments.
- Sec. 905. Active postmarket risk identification and analysis.
- Sec. 906. Statement for inclusion in direct-to-consumer advertisements of drugs.
- Sec. 907. No effect on veterinary medicine.
- Sec. 908. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 909. Effective date and applicability.

### Subtitle B—Other Provisions to Ensure Drug Safety and Surveillance



# Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA)

PUBLIC LAW 112–144—JULY 9, 2012

126 STAT. 995

## TITLE IX—DRUG APPROVAL AND PATIENT ACCESS

- Sec. 901. Enhancement of accelerated patient access to new medical treatments.
  - Sec. 902. Breakthrough therapies.
  - Sec. 903. Consultation with external experts on rare diseases, targeted therapies, and genetic targeting of treatments.
  - Sec. 904. Accessibility of information on prescription drug container labels by visually impaired and blind consumers.
  - Sec. 905. Risk-benefit framework.
  - Sec. 906. Grants and Contracts for the Development of Orphan Drugs.
  - Sec. 907. Reporting of inclusion of demographic subgroups in clinical trials and data analysis in applications for drugs, biologics, and devices.
  - Sec. 908. Rare pediatric disease priority review voucher incentive program.
-

# FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 (FDARA)

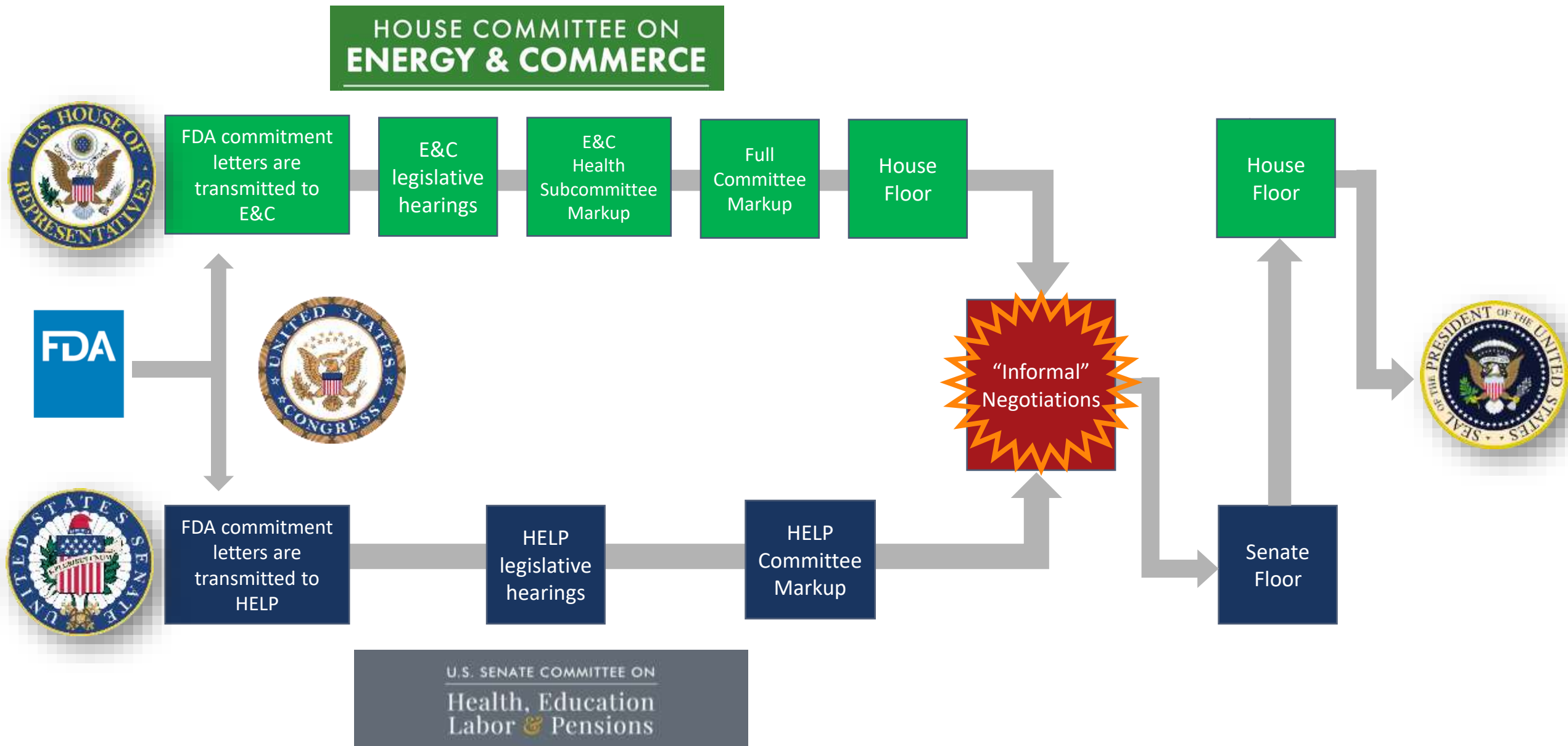
### TITLE VI—REAUTHORIZATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO DRUGS

- Sec. 601. Reauthorization of provision relating to exclusivity of certain drugs containing single enantiomers.
- Sec. 602. Reauthorization of the critical path public-private partnerships.
- Sec. 603. Reauthorization of orphan grants program.
- Sec. 604. Protecting and strengthening the drug supply chain.
- Sec. 605. Patient experience data.
- Sec. 606. Communication plans.
- Sec. 607. Orphan drugs.
- Sec. 608. Pediatric information added to labeling.
- Sec. 609. Sense of Congress on lowering the cost of prescription drugs.
- Sec. 610. Expanded access.
- Sec. 611. Tropical disease product application.

# **Current FDA User Reauthorization Efforts**



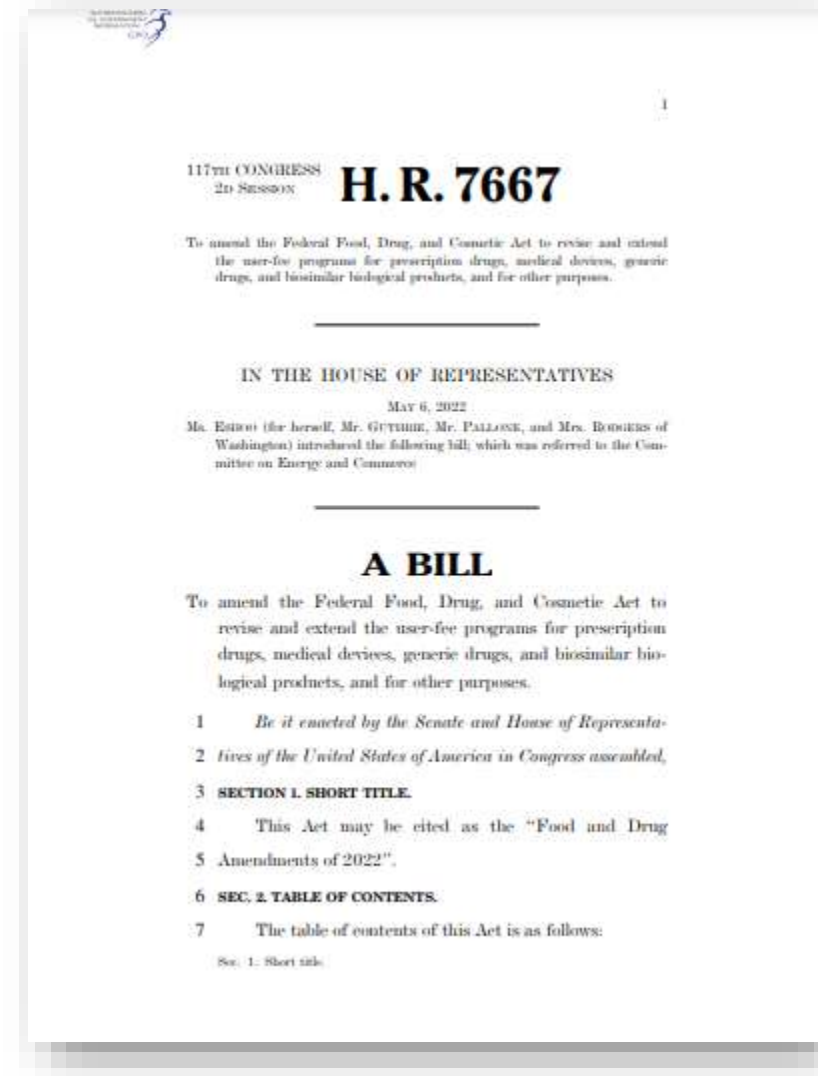
# Possible User Fee Reauthorization Legislative Process



# House Bill



- **Timing:**
  - House passed on June 8 by a bipartisan 392-28.
- **Key provisions (Accelerated Approval):**
  - Requires FDA to specify conditions for required post approval studies for drugs approved under accelerated approval by the time the drug is approved.
    - May include enrollment targets and milestones, including the target date for study completion.
  - Authorizes FDA to require post approval studies to be underway at the time of approval for such drugs and requires FDA to explain any instances where it does not require such studies.
    - Studies may be supported by real world evidence.
  - Clarifies that existing authority to withdraw approvals where sponsors fail to conduct studies with due diligence applies with respect to the approval conditions and streamlines procedures for withdrawal of approval.
  - Codifies labeling requirements for accelerated approval and information on surrogate endpoints and requires more frequent reports on post approval study progress.





# Senate

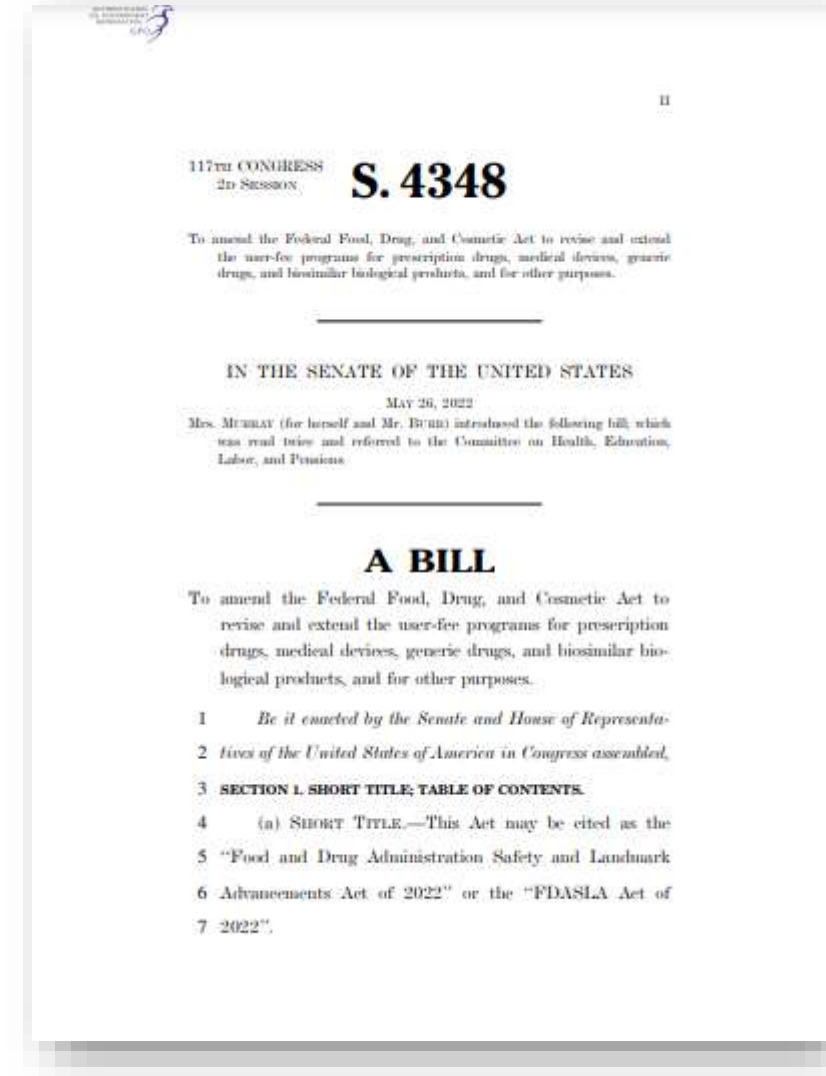


- **Timing:**

- HELP Committee passed S. 4348 on June 14 by a 13-9 vote.

- **Key provisions (Accelerated Approval):**

- Requires the FDA to provide a summary of the basis of approval for a drug approved through the accelerated approval pathway, including whether an advisory committee meeting was held, and the rationale for determining the surrogate endpoint is reasonably likely to predict clinical benefit.
- Requires that sponsors of drugs approved under accelerated approval submit to the Secretary a report of progress on required post approval studies every 180 days.
- Requires the Secretary to establish an intra-agency coordinating council within FDA to ensure the consistent and appropriate use of the accelerated approval pathway.
- Requires FDA to publish on the FDA website why a study is not appropriate or necessary, if FDA does not require that a product approved under accelerated approval conduct a post approval study.



# **Concluding Thoughts**





# Concluding Thoughts

- The current political environment is incredibly fluid.
- FDA user fee reauthorization process will be a (if not the) major focus over next several months, but other issues will arise (they will have an impact on the process and broader environment).
- The drug approval process, including the expedited programs, will continue to evolve as a result of advances in science, focus on access (pre- and post-market), and demand for more patient engagement (among other factors).
- Congressional debates and oversight on the approval process have an impact; legislation is not the only factor.





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# TAKE OUR SURVEY

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# UPCOMING EVENT

July 15, 2022 | 12:00 pm ET – 1:30 pm ET

## **Policy Options to Ensuring Stable Coverage and Avoiding Premium Shocks**

This event will outline the various coverage-related elements at play over the next six to nine months, their tradeoffs, and how they may impact various stakeholders including consumers, state leaders, and payers. Panelists will explore enrollment, risk pool, and premium forecasts, approaches that state and health plan leaders may take, as well as implications on overall costs to the system.

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# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!